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Montana Historical Society
The Montana Historical Society report to the 54th Legislature and the State of Montana

MONTANA Historical Society

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION
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Report

to the

54th Legislature

and the

State of Montana

December 1, 1994

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THE SOCIETY'S MISSION

Since its founding in 1865, the Montana Historical Society has remained firmly committed to preserving and interpreting Montana and western American history. This is the foundation upon which all Society program activity is built.

As outlined by statute since the Society became a state agency in 1891, the mission of the Montana Historical Society is to:

> Collect, preserve, and interpret material that reflects and documents the history and prehistory of Montana and the region.
>
> Interpret Montana history through study, exhibits, publications, and educational programs.
>
> Encourage the preservation of Montana's historical, architectural, archaeological, and related cultural resources.
>
> Encourage and support high-quality research, publications, and exhibits that interpret local, state, and regional history, and cooperate with other institutions toward those ends.

Keeping its statutory mission in mind, the Society's major goals for long-term growth and development are:

> To continually improve the level and quality of service the Society provides to all its constituents.
>
> To improve the support services and facilities required to preserve properly the collected materials entrusted to the Society.
>
> To enhance the Society's reputation and develop its presence as not only the oldest but also the finest historical organization in the West.
>
> To consistently exceed visitor expectations.
>
> To be among the very best historical organizations, anywhere, at which to work.

SOCIETY ORGANIZATION AND PROGRAMS

The Montana Historical Society is organized into four operating units, each headed by a program manager who reports to the Society director. These units are Library/Archives, Museum, Publications, and State Historic Preservation Office.

Overall, Society management is the responsibility of an administration program, which includes the director's office, public

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information, business office, personnel, security, facilities management, and state government liaison. The Society's membership is also part of administration.

ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

The Administration Program at the Society provides Security, Public Relations, Accounting, Historic Research, Special Member Promotion, Personnel and other support services to all agency programs.

The Security Unit provides overall security for the agency and its irreplaceable collections. Security includes maintenance of the intrusion security system, passive observation of visitors, crowd control for public events, checking of parcels, bags, etc. when visitors and staff depart, and providing emergency and accident response. An equally important function of the Security Unit is the public information aspect of the Unit's responsibilities. Security courteously provides information to visitors on the exhibits, Montana history, travel in Montana, sites and services in Helena and answers to other questions when requested.

The program's Events/Promotion Specialist not only provides administrative support for the Director, but also performs the Special Membership function at the Society. Special Memberships offer several benefits including a subscription to Montana, the Magazine of Western History. In return these memberships provide funding for the Society's educational activities, for which no other source of funding is available, which includes the following: lectures, programs, slide programs and exhibits that travel to schools around the state. Membership donations also provide funding for new publications, public programs, and new exhibits.

The program's Public Information Office provides public information to inform thousands of Montanans about events, exhibits, and other services designed to educate people about Montana's heritage and to further efforts to collect and preserve the state's history. This objective is accomplished via news releases, public service announcements, special reports and national stories.

The Historic Research Office provides verification, research, writing and editing for projects and publications produced by the Society. This function also serves as Society representative for public events. In addition this office performs on-the-spot radio and television interviews and serves as a historical consultant.

The Accounting/Personnel Unit provides budgeting, accounting, fiscal reporting, maintenance and operation of online SBAS and online payroll, personnel matters, cash handling, accounts receivable and payable, property control, payroll, building management, expenditure

review, contracts, federal grants and purchasing. The staff represent the agency in transactions with appropriate government agencies such as the Legislative Auditor, the Budget Office, the Fiscal Analyst's Office, Payroll Division and Accounting Division.

1994/1995 BIENNIUM

The Security Unit provided security for the collections and provided information to 84,344 visitors in Fiscal Year 1994. They also performed 2,994 security inspections. During this fiscal year four cameras were replaced and two new cameras and one new monitor were added in order to implement the upgrading of the security system to a level that would provide more video coverage than the antiquated system previously did. A sensor system was also added for the Poindexter collection and will be used for other rotating exhibits.

The Events/Promotion Specialist secured additional Special Members for a total membership exceeding 1,000 donors during the last biennium.

The Public Information Office helped generate increased attendance at the Society's 21st Annual Montana History Conference in Red Lodge. Using media,including print and electronic outlets, the office generated more than 30 stories and public service spots throughout the south-central part of the state and elsewhere which in turn created vigorous interest in and awareness of the Society and its mission, and brought new people to the conference. The office produced more than 100 other releases and media spots on other events and programs that facilitated an increased awareness among the state's citizens about the numerous services and programs provided for the people by the Society. In addition, this office did numerous national stories, including a feature on CNN's news channel about the Society. The information program also wrote and distributed "Montana History Minutes" that appeared primarily in the Helena region. The program also undertook such functions as hosting the captain of the USS Helena nuclear submarine during his stay in the state, and preparing various reports and studies on upcoming issues facing the Society.

A few of the functions the Historical Research Office performed during this biennium were verification, research and writings for the following; A Comprehensive Index, 1951-1990: Montana The Magazine of Western History; The Oral History Guide; Montana, A Classroom Guide to the Study of the State (produced in cooperation with the Office of Public Instruction); handout texts for individual sections within the permanent "Homeland" exhibit; and biographical sketches for Capitol displays, including niches within the "Gallery of Outstanding Montanans." This position also researched and produced the segments in the Society's "History Minutes" and created and staffed the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Celebration Advisory Council, in conjunction with Travel Montana. This position also served as a Society representative for the annual Montana History Day judging, the annual Montana Geography Bee, and the annual

Centennial Bell/Outstanding Montana History Teacher Award competition.

The Accounting/Personnel function maintained current operations but implemented no new services as a result of the special session cut of an accounting position. During Fiscal Year 1994 the office performed the following: maintained 10 major grants and 66 subgrants; processed 2,600 SBAS documents; maintained the accounts receivable system for 100 active clients and processed 1,200 applicable statements; reviewed 40 SBAS centers monthly for accuracy and budgetary control; tracked 5 programs monthly; processed 1,924 payroll forms and records; performed quarterly audits of the Daly and Moss mansions; oversaw implementation of audit recommendations; and outlined plans regarding more efficient internal control for the enterprise and grant programs. In addition, this office also prepared quarterly financial reports for the Society's governing Board of Directors, and financial estimates for possible budget cuts as requested by the Governor and legislative bodies.

1996/1997 BIENNIUM

Although no additional funding was requested for this program, the program will attempt to provide the level of service equal to that of the 1994/1995 Biennium and, if possible, provide additional services as follows:

The Security Function plans to install additional cameras and monitors as authority is available. The security function will also provide security for the collections and deal with the number of visitors and the inspections as needed.

The Events/Promotion Specialist will continue not only maintaining the current Special Members but will search for new members in order to expand the funding source to support the educational activities at the Society.

The Public Information Office will continue to generate increased awareness of the Society and the services offered. This office also plans to expand the "Montana History Minutes" coverage to include the entire state to increase awareness and interest in the state's rich history and heritage.

The Historic Research Office will provide research, verification, and writing as needed by the programs at the Society and for the public. The office will also serve as the Society representative at public functions and serve as a Historic Consultant as needed by the Society and the public.

The Accounting/Personnel Unit will maintain their current level of services and, if possible, will network the computer system in order to enhance communication via E-Mail. This program will also work closely with the Merchandise program in order to enhance their

computer system to more accurately track inventory and provide the necessary reporting information.

This program will continue to focus on providing security for the collections of the state, providing information to visitors, increasing awareness of the Society and its services, serving as a source of funding for education activities both in schools around the state and at the Society, providing historic research as needed. The focus will also continue to include; maintenance of the accounting system in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles; expanding the services of the Society into every corner of this state; and attempting to involve as many citizens as possible in preserving Montana's heritage.

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

The Library and Archives Program incorporates three functional sections: the Library, the Archives, and the Photograph Archives. Dating its collecting from 1865 and its public reference service from 1887, the Library is the oldest department of the Society. Although pioneer diaries and letters were collected from the Society's start, and some older state records were taken in for safekeeping before 1969, it was in that year that the State Archives was created by law. In 1974, the Photograph Archives became a separately-maintained collection. The different sections each collect distinctive materials and employ distinctive methodologies to organize and service their collections. The Library holds printed or "published" material in all formats; the Archives collects unpublished, "original" material, including oral history audiotapes from interviews conducted by staff; and the Photograph Archives gathers in photographs, and archival, or one-of-a-kind, non-commercial films and videotapes.

The Program houses and services the nation's most comprehensive collection of historical research material pertaining to Montana. Its collections contain over 100,000 volumes, 200,000 historical images, 14,000 reels of microfilm, mostly of the 1,200 runs of Montana newspapers in the Library, 16,000 maps, 1,700 taped interviews, 11,600 cubic feet of manuscripts and territorial and older state government records, and 11,800 quick reference subject files.

The staff is responsible for collecting, organizing, preserving, and assisting the public and the staff of other Society programs in the use of this wealth of research material. For security and preservation, storage stacks are closed to the public and materials do not circulate, but are made available to visitors through two public reference rooms. The Program also operates a darkroom to

provide photographic prints to the public, and shares with the Museum the use of a small conservation laboratory.

The Archives provides a special service to other state offices, helping them identify records which have historical value, and arranging for their transfer for permanent keeping and research use. The Program encourages significant new written contributions to Montana history through annual James H. Bradley Summer Fellowships. Funded by an endowment from a private citizen, the Bradleys support one or two scholars (depending on the interest rates) for a four weeks research residency. The scholars later submit articles drawn from their research for possible publication in the Society's magazine.

The State Archivist serves as the chair and state coordinator of the gubernatorially-appointed State Historic Records Advisory Council, which reviews and makes recommendations to the National Archives on proposals from Montana institutions seeking federal grant funds for archival projects. The Archivist also serves on the State Records Committee, which reviews requests from state agencies to destroy or otherwise dispose of their inactive records, and the recently-created Local Government Advisory Committee, which brings together state, county and city records managers to work cooperatively on records management problems on all government levels.

The Society Librarian and Program Administrator serves as the alternate on all these committees, and also as an adviser to Publications and Graphics for state publishing.

FISCAL YEAR 1994 ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Reference and Research Assistance

The Library and Archives' most visible public service is assisting visitors in its two public research rooms. The main reference room where all library and archival materials must be used is on the second floor of the Pioneer and Veterans Memorial Building, and is open 8 to 5 weekdays. The Photograph Archives maintains a smaller reference room on the third floor, which, because of the small number of staff, is usually open only from 1 to 5 in the afternoon, although morning appointments are made for special circumstances. Researchers include students of all levels, genealogists, academic scholars, other state employees, contract historians, and a broad spectrum of the general public from both Montana and out-of-state. Staff not only help the researchers find pertinent material but, as subject experts in Montana history, often advise on interpreting these materials. The acknowledgement sections of at least two dozen published works each year testify to the importance of the Society collections and its staff assistance in the writing and illustrating of Montana and American West history. Staff also respond to requests by mail and telephone both for information on Montana and Western history, and, from libraries, historical societies, museums, and local governments around the state and sometimes from their

colleagues in other states, for professional advice on the proper handling of special materials such as rare books, business records, or historical photographs.

The Program experienced an all-time annual record in Fiscal Year 1993 with 3,619 researcher visits. It also responded to 2,208 requests by mail, and to over 7,000 telephone inquiries. The national usefulness of the collections is indicated by the fact that, in the summer, 35% of the visiting researchers are from out-of-state, as are 70% of the mail inquiries year-round. And use has increased sharply, with a 54% increase in mail reference from 10 years ago, a 71% increase in researchers visiting, and a stunning 300% increase in telephone reference. Part of this increase reflects the recent popularity of Montana in the movies, as research and production staff from such films as Lonesome Dove, Far and Away, A River Runs Through It, and The River Wild, and from such TV productions as Lonesome Dove, the Series, The Girl From Montana, Nobody's Girls, and several Old West documentaries currently in the making for public television make use of the Program's collections and expertise, generally by telephone, FAX, and Federal Express.

A special service provided by the Library in cooperation with the Office of Public Instruction, which publishes it, is a 27-page booklet entitled Montana, A Classroom Guide to the Study of the State, compiled and updated by the Society's research historian to cover the 101 most frequently asked questions. This is the centerpiece of the "school packet" which the Library mails in response to the pleas of school children around the nation for free materials about Montana and its history to fulfill an assigned school project. Several state offices, including the Legislative Council and the Governor's Office, refer such requests to the Society. In Fiscal Year 1994, 266 such packets were mailed.

A primary, and increasingly popular service of the Photograph Archives is the production of prints for the public from photographs in the collection. Fiscal Year 1994 saw a new annual record set with 1,595 prints. This included such diverse orders as 77 prints for the City of Helena Planners Office for an exhibit on urban renewal, 18 prints for a state advertising firm to use in a marketing video, 21 fiber prints for a private collector of western historical photographs, and 88 prints for a San Francisco law firm for use in litigation. The section also produced 482 prints for other programs, especially Publications for the Society magazine and the Museum for its exhibits on historical architecture and on Indian artist John Clarke. Revenues from the sale of such prints fund the Society's dark room operation.

In their role as the state's official government archivists, Archives staff responded to 160 requests from 50 state offices for advice and assistance on records, including a visit to the Pine Hills School in Miles City. They also advised 30 local government entities around the state.

Although most of the Program's materials cannot be borrowed because of their uniqueness or rarity, the Library does loan duplicate copies of its non-rare books and microfilm copies of its most sought-after resource, its Montana territorial and state newspapers, through interlibrary loan. In Fiscal Year 1994, the Library mailed out 2,680 reels of microfilm in response to 236 loan requests.

Acquisitions and Collection Development

Building and improving its diverse collections is another primary function of the Library and Archives Program. These collections are the Program's principal legacy to the future. It is often necessary to acquire such locally-printed materials as county or town histories soon after they are published if the Library is to have a copy at all, and significant manuscript materials and historical photographs, like gold, are where you find them and, if not found, may soon perish from the accidents and indifference of time. As reference demands have increased, so have the acquisition tasks and rates, as more Montana-related publications, more government records, more films and videotapes and photographs, are generated than ever before. In Fiscal Year 1994, the Library accessioned 3,172 items, including 517 books, along with the thousands of daily or weekly issues of the 96 Montana newspapers it receives. The Archives acquired 60 new manuscript collections totalling 531 cubic feet, and took in 429 additional cubic feet of older state records from 27 state offices. The Photograph Archives acquired 17,789 additional images, and over 200 reels of 16mm film.

For most of these acquisitions, the Program relied on the generosity of private donors or the friendliness of other institutions. While the Library has some monies for acquiring materials in its general fund budget, this must be spent primarily on the microfilming of current newspapers and the purchase of currently-published books and magazines before they go out of print and become, ultimately, more expensive and much more time-consuming to obtain. Even in the Library, purchases comprised less than 20% of the Library's additions, and, with the major exception of one collection, all the additions to the Archives and Photograph Archives came by gift, or, in a few cases, through the trade of duplicate photographs or paper ephemera items with private collectors. All told, 476 private citizens and other institutions donated materials, including 96 publishers of newspapers.

By far the single most significant collection acquired was also the exception to the rule of having archival materials donated. Indeed, never had the Society spent so much on any acquisition other than a C.M. Russell painting as the $115,000 it spent to purchase the collection of business records, correspondence, and printed ephemera assembled by Bovey Restorations, Inc., of Virginia City. As a state agency, with the standard two-year, categorized budget and limited and usually earmarked trust or endowment funds, the Society has had to ignore various book and manuscript collecting opportunities in the past when these required being able to pay considerable sums quickly on the market. The Bovey collection presented something of

an emergency, however. Insufficient cash available to open the concessions and building-museums the Bovey corporation operates in Nevada and Virginia City for the summer tourist season were leading it to put on the market the 110 linear feet of early Virginia City paper material which it owned, with its tens of thousands of letters, documents, stamped envelopes, ledgers and other valuable paper ephemera. The Society believed it important to intervene as the Bovey material constituted the largest known collection of such early Montana manuscripts and records to be in private hands, and probably never again would this much material from the 1860's and 1870's become available. Were it to come to auction or even to sale to one or more private dealers, it would certainly be scattered to a large number of owners, and certainly lost as a research resource. Fortunately the Montana Historical Society Foundation, founded in 1986, provided a means to respond quickly without needing general fund monies that the Society did not previously have. Bovey Restorations contributed by accepting an offer well below the appraised value, and the collection was secured and preserved for present and future Montanans.

The Program had some other noteworthy acquisitions. Its film collection was instantly multiplied four-fold and to the status of a problem with the transfer of several hundred reels of film footage shot over the last forty years from Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Another interesting addition to its film holdings were 38 8mm home movie films from a donor in Seattle documenting Fort Peck Dam construction from 1938-1942, and life at Glasgow Air Force Base as it was converted to a bomber base, 1959-1963, and invaded by giant tumbleweeds. A donor in California sent over 1,800 photographs of Montana dude ranch operations in the early 1930's, and the City Planning Office gave over 4,500 photographs documenting Helena's urban renewal projects from 1968 through 1975. The Archives also received 50 feet of records from those same projects, and retrieved 360 feet of Montana State Hospital records from Galen as that institution was phased out.

An especially intriguing and potentially sensational acquisition was the purported manuscript journal/letter/reminiscence of Harvey Logan, alias Kid Curry, describing his trials and imprisonment in Tennessee in 1901. The gift came from a descendant of a Montana rancher associated with the Coburn family who had been an acquaintance of Logan. An effort to verify the document continues, as it appears to be a combination of Logan's own handwriting and that of another person, perhaps someone to whom he was dictating. Thus, its authenticity and its background remain uncertain. Logan, a thoroughly nasty character, is, nonetheless, because of his sometimes association with Butch Cassidy and the Wild Bunch, a couple of killings and some confirmed train robberies, as close as Montana comes to a nationally-ranked Wild West outlaw.

Although the Library's collections are surprisingly strong and comprehensive considering its lack of acquisition funds in the past, it does not always have some older items it might be expected to have, or does not have a copy in good condition. Such was the case

with the 1876 pictorial ("bird'seye") map of Helena, much rarer than the 1890 version. The Library's only copy was badly water stained and otherwise damaged, and thus, when a copy in fine condition was offered by a Philadelphia dealer, despite a $910 price tag, it was purchased. The Library has two small private endowments marked for obtaining just such out-of-print and individually-expensive items.

The Library also sees itself with a responsibility towards cooperatively collecting with other libraries in the state to improve overall state-wide resources. Thus it strives to sometimes purchase the single copy that will be available in the state of important Montana-related research material from the collections of other institutions that has been made available on microfilm. Such material usually is extensive, and thus filmed as a multi-reel set with reels costing in the neighborhood of $100 each. Thus it devoted some of its Fiscal Year 1994 acquisitions funds to the purchase of the 23 reels that constitute Part II of the Papers of the St. Louis Fur Trade, containing ledgers of the American Fur Company and subsidiary firms from 1802 through 1871. It also filled in four more years (1957-1961) of the one Montana newspaper run available on commercial microfilm which the Society collection does not have either on film or in the original, the later years of the "second" Great Falls daily, The Leader, which ceased publication in 1969. The Leader also constitutes the Library's single largest newspaper backrun remaining to be microfilmed. The Society holds original issues from 1890 to 1951.

Cataloging and Processing

Until cards for books and maps are put in the public card catalog, and sorting, selecting, arranging and inventories are done on the incoming collections of manuscripts, records and photographs, the materials are not truly accessible to the public. This work goes on unseen and unheralded by the public, but is crucial if the collections are to be used and useful. "Backlogs" are a given of library and archival work. No section will ever be completely "caught up," and it is always a matter of identifying the most important problem or project to work on with the staff time available.

The Library gives priority to cataloging and processing current acquisitions and gifts, and then technical services staff proceed to older, "backlog" problems if time permits. In Fiscal Year 1994 the Cataloger did keep up with the current, cleared some older items, and, for the first time since a grant-funded map cataloging project finished in 1983, was able to include newly-acquired maps in the regular cataloging, and to begin to whittle away on the ten-year uncataloged accumulation.

The Library entered 954 new records into the Western Library Network (WLN), the regional data base used by hundreds of libraries in Montana and the Pacific Northwest. At the end of August, 1994, the Library had a total of 8,102 titles entered into WLN, or roughly 20% of our holdings of books and magazines.

Archives staff completed processing on 78 collections, adding 92 cubic feet to its inventoried holdings. Preliminary sorting was completed on several hundred more feet, including on the Bovey collection mentioned above. A brief summary description and some subject headings are always entered into the automated and manual Archives catalogs for every collection taken in, providing at least some broad access to all archival materials on hand. The Archives has also begun, for the first time, to enter descriptions of its collections into WLN, providing a major new means for regional researchers to learn something about the contents of our archival collections at a distance. Photograph Archives also does at least a broad, accession-record description of each collection acquired during the year. Despite having insufficient staff to release someone from reference and other duties to concentrate even primarily on cataloging, the section was able to sort, arrange, and create an inventory for 37 collections comprising 521 photographs from its backlog, and added individual entries for 467 additional photographs to its core collection of 40,000. It is not coincidental that it is these separately-cataloged photographs, which make up only some 20% of the collection but which can be "found" in a public catalog under a variety of headings, that are the most heavily-used and the most "famous." However, it is not realistic to think of ever having all the photographs individually cataloged. For example, the average annual acquisition rate of the Photograph Archives of 4,000 to 5,000 new images would require at least one experienced cataloger doing only that for the entire year to come close to keeping up, and in Fiscal Year 1994 over 17,000 new images were acquired.

Preservation

In the Library and Archives Program, the present and the future are always in conflict. With its reference and research services, its finding aids and catalogs and its entries in dozens of national directories that describe its collections, and through entering its current acquisitions into a regional automated network, and its newspaper holdings into a national database tappable by thousands of libraries, the Program strives to raise awareness of what is in its collections and thus encourage their use. At the same time, it has statutory responsibility to preserve these same materials as best it can for the use and enjoyment of later generations. Much of its preservation work consists of transferring incoming materials into proper storage containers such as acid-free folders for manuscripts and inert plastic sleeves for photographs. Materials are also examined for mold or insects, cleaned, paper clips and staples removed, and flattened or humidified as needed. All footage processed by the Archives receives such attention, and even incoming collections that will not soon be fully processed are checked to guard against importing insects, mold or other harmful matter, and often are given preliminary cleaning. In addition, the Archives replaced documents too fragile for repeated handling or which were on short-lived paper, such as thermofax, with 1,303 permanent paper photocopies, cleaned 595 pages of document, and humidified 60 brittle, usually oversize, sheets.

The Photograph Archives cleaned, sleeved, and provided proper storage containers for 6,260 additional negatives, lantern slides, and photographs. The Library's conservation technician, who can only be spared one day a week from multiple other duties to perform preservation work, provided treatment for 387 library and archive items, ranging from dry-gum cleaning of a map to an intensive treatment to remove old newspaper clippings pasted over account information in an 1868 ledger which required over 20 hours of work.

Special Projects and Activities

Volunteers contributed 752 hours, roughly the equivalent of 19 work weeks, to a variety of projects that could not otherwise have been done. Seven hundred four copies of 496 duplicate maps, most of them initially identified and put aside in stacks a decade ago when the Society had a federal grant that funded a full-time map cataloger, were at last inventoried and double-checked against holdings, and became ready for final disposal. The poster/large printed ephemera collection was also sifted to eliminate irrelevant and non-original material, with a preliminary card file to provide at least some means for researchers to see if the collection contains something pertinent without having to sort through all the actual posters. Volunteers assisted the Archives in sorting and arranging several manuscript collections to which they brought specialized knowledge, and produced hundreds of photocopies of photographs for ready reference and to eliminate the need for patrons to handle the originals in the Photograph Archives.

Genealogists from both Montana and out-of-state are the fastest-growing constituency of the Program. Services to these patrons have been greatly improved by the Archives serving as a liaison between the Genealogical Society of Utah and Montana county clerks of the district court in a major microfilm project to film various vital records critical to genealogical research and previously available to the public only in the county itself. Fiscal Year 1994 saw the completion of the filming of 123 reels of marriage records and indexes up to about 1950 from almost all of the 56 counties. The Society will receive copies of all the microfilm produced by the project, and thus be able to provide access to a vastly increased amount of genealogical material.

The state chapter of the Association of Records Mandoneagers and Administrators made the Historical Society the co-winner, along with the Secretary of State's Office, of its "Company of the Year" award for contributions to improved records management and preservation. The award was in recognition of the Society's role in the creation of the state-level Local Government Records Advisory Committee that brings together state and local government officials to enhance cooperation and efficiency and find resolutions to records problems at all levels of government. The State Archives' special interest and contributory expertise is, predictably, in the identifying, preserving, and making accessible to researchers the historically-significant local government records.

A special marketing arrangement with Indigena, Inc. to use selected photographs on cards and posters provided sufficient additional earned revenue to the Photograph Archives to purchase nearly $4,000 of long-needed equipment for its darkroom operations.

A printed index and guide to all the oral history interviews in the Society's collections, most of which were obtained from 1981-1993 when the Society staff included a full-time, grant-funded oral historian, is nearing readiness for publication. A final Cultural Trust oral history grant provided funds for a compiler and indexer, who has completed her work, and for publishing the guide with the Society Press.

Laser-printer technology is enabling the Program to produce relatively quickly and certainly economically the selective bibliographies and information guides to its collections that it has always had in mind, but had not been able to afford when printing had to be done elsewhere. The Archives section has led the way with the "publication" of two booklets, Genealogical Sources at the Montana Historical Society Archives, and, produced specifically for a symposium on the Little Big Horn in August, 1994, which the Society co-sponsored, Archival Sources at the Montana Historical Society: The Indian Wars of 1876-1877.

FISCAL YEAR 1995 AND BEYOND

The main concentration of the Library and Archives Program for the next fiscal year and the following biennium will be to attempt to maintain the quality and output of its present public and technical services without additional resources other than those it might obtain by grant or earned revenues. It will look to improve its cost recoveries in such areas as interlibrary loan mailing fees, photocopying and the production of prints from microfilm and perhaps generate sufficient revenues to be able to purchase needed additional equipment. In keeping with this, and to try to reap some benefit from what is the growing problem of constantly-escalating demand for reproductions of library and archival material, the Program has established a fee for full-size reproduction of items such as maps or documents from the Archives, as well as a permission fee if someone wishes to reprint to sell copies for profit of the entire text of primary material such as diaries or correspondence or out-of-copyright published material held by the Society. It will need to formulate or further clarify policies in regard to the reproduction of Society-held materials with the new technologies such as scanners and video disc as the requests to do so multiply. The Archives will continue to be involved in resolving the problems of creating and preserving an accessible "permanent" historical record when the original record is kept and maintained only in electronic form. As to planned projects, the Photograph Archives will be reviewing the condition of its quantity of nitrate-based film, and formulating a plan with estimated costs as to how to deal with it. Part of this project is a current request for a Cultural Trust grant for the next biennium to convert over 9,000 feet of

nitrate film produced by and documenting the famous Campbell wheat farms in the 1920's and 1930's. The Archives will finish in Fiscal Year 1995 a federal grant funding travel expenses to allow the Historic Records Advisory Council to meet together at least twice a year. Thereafter, if Montana state government wishes to remain eligible for records grants from the National Archives, the Program must find a way to fund such meetings on an on-going basis. The Program will also have to cope with the aging of almost all its microcomputer equipment. It would appear to be principally a "making do" time ahead, with the need to prioritize amongst the many things to do, but, unless circumstances or anticipated budget change significantly, there should be no need to drastically curtail or even noticeably diminish any current services of the Program.

MUSEUM PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

The Museum Program collects fine art, and historical, archeological, and ethnological artifacts that pertain to Montana and its adjoining geographic region. In addition to caring for the Society's museum collections, program staff conduct research, produce exhibits, sponsor public programs, answer reference requests from the public, and provide technical assistance to other museums and historical societies. The Museum also operates the Original Governor's Mansion as an historic site open to the public. Through the Museum's Education Office tours, school services, conferences, workshops, classes, publications, hands-on activities, and other public events are provided. The Museum also administers volunteer services within the Society and coordinates two major annual events--the Montana History Conference and Montana History Day.

The many public activities of the Museum Program reach a large and diverse audience throughout the state and region. In Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995:

Over 128,791 people visited the Society
The Original Governor's Mansion was toured by 8,978 people
Guided tours of the Capitol served approximately 17,611 people
Group tours at the Society totaled 8,850+ individuals
Educational outreach programs served 70,700+ individuals

MUSEUM EXHIBITS

Permanent exhibits include:

Montana Homeland - covers the story of Montana's human history, 14,000 years ago to World War II
Mackay Gallery of Charles M. Russell Art - approximately 180 artworks by Montana's most famous western artist

F.J. Haynes: Photographer - portrays the life and work of the official photographer for both the Northern Pacific Railroad (1884-1904) and Yellowstone National Park (1887-1916)

Temporary exhibits are featured in the Northeast Gallery, and the "Reflections" area of the Montana Homeland exhibit. During the last two fiscal years they included:

Buildings in the Balance: Saving Montana's Historic Places
Curing Ills and Healing Wounds: Medicine in Montana
Cutapuis: The Man Who Talks Not - The Art of John L. Clarke
Modern Masters: The Poindexter Collections' Abstract Artists
Montana's Many Faces: The Art of Portraiture

Lobby exhibits included:

American Indian Ledger Art
George Catlin Lithographs
Children's Toys and Clothing
Christmas Dolls and Toys
Earl E. Heikka Art
Helena Then and Now
Japanese Friendship Dolls
Montana Assembly of Independent Order of Odd Fellows & Rebekahs Ceremonial Objects
Montana Nurses Uniforms (Dolls)
Photographing Montana: The World of Evelyn Cameron, 1894-1928
A Stitch in Time - Textile Crafts
Textile Art
Western Wildlife Art

The following six traveling exhibits, developed by the Museum Program, toured to 22 venues throughout the state and region during the last two years:

Butte in the Era of the Copper Kings
Children in Montana
Montana Collage
Montana Reflections: Contemporary Photographs-Historic Visions
Photographing Montana: The World of Evelyn Cameron 1894-1928
The Stack Dominated Our Lives

Off-site exhibits include:

The Capitol's Gallery of Outstanding Montanans - five segments were redesigned and replaced, along with the development of a new introductory panel
Japanese Friendship Dolls
Capitol Offices - Art for the House Speaker and President of the Senate was installed in offices during the Legislative session and art was installed in the offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor
Art exhibit at the Governor's residence

The Museum loans art and artifacts from its collections to other museums throughout the state and nation for exhibits they produce. Loans were made to the following institutions in Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995:

Arts Chateau, Butte
Big Fork Art and Cultural Center
Custer County Historical Society, Miles City
Daly Mansion, Hamilton
High Desert Museum, Bend, Oregon
Historical Museum at Fort Missoula
Hockaday Center for the Arts, Kalispell
Livingston Depot Center
Minneapolis Institute of the Arts, Minnesota
Museum of Our National Heritage, Lexington, Massachusetts
Museum of the Rockies
National Mining Museum Hall of Fame, Leadville, Colorado
National Museum of American History, Washington, DC
Palm Spring Desert Museum, California
Sacred Encounters: Father DeSmet and the Indians of the Rocky Mountain West - An exhibit traveling to five venues throughout America
Sqelix'w/ Aqtsmaknik Cultural Center, Pablo
Western Heritage Center, Billings

ACQUISITIONS

The Museum Program received 1,082 items from 181 individual donors in the current biennium, and more than 1,600 objects from the Museum collection were individually catalogued. Highlights of the donations to the Museum included: 15 George Catlin lithographs, 3 Earl E. Heikka models, shot glasses from the Mint Bar in Great Falls, Montana IOOF (Odd Fellows & Rebekahs) ceremonial items, 15 art photographs of Montana by noted contemporary artists, leather riding skirt made by Furstnow Saddlery of Miles City, quilts made by orphans at St. Peter's Mission, Columbian Exposition "Montana Nail" pin, 5 works by Fanny Cory Cooney, 1920s Cheyenne doll, painting by Jim Todd, Bob Scriver bronze - Hornaday Bison Group, drag saw from a Butte mine, stock saddle owned by author J.K. Howard, and a settee which was an original piece of furniture from the Original Governor's Mansion.

COLLECTIONS ACTIVITIES

More improvements were made in our storage areas. Furniture, clocks and lighting devices were moved to new storage units constructed for them. Reorganization and clean up of the off-site storage units was also accomplished. Our 3,500 piece collection of Native American artifacts was completely re-housed in new custom-built storage units as a result of a Federal grant; a conservator was hired for nine months as part of this project.

Our volunteers again enabled us to complete projects and improve collections care above and beyond what was possible with current staff. Seven volunteers assisted staff this biennium with over 2,683 hours of work completed; the equivalent of 1.25 full-time staff for one year. Four interns worked with Museum staff; two Native American interns identified and stored American Indian artifacts; a Master's candidate in archaeology did research and worked on an educational footlocker for the Anzick Clovis-era stone tools; and artists represented in the Poindexter Modern Art Collection were researched by an art history student.

Conservation activity continued in-house with our trained volunteers cleaning items which were slated for exhibit and items identified as high priority by the Museum staff. Art and objects needing major cleaning or repair were treated by professional conservators on contract. During the biennium a table lamp, four John L. Clarke illustrated letters, five modern art works from the Poindexter Collection, thirteen pieces of ledger art and two pictographs on canvas were conserved by the Rocky Mountain Conservation Center in Denver. A quilt received conservation treatment by the Textile Conservation Center at North Andover, Massachusetts. The Upper Midwest Conservation Association in Minneapolis cleaned and repaired three pieces of ledger art on paper.

Responsibility for the art in the Capitol and on the Capitol complex was transferred to the Museum by the Legislature in 1993. A Cultural and Aesthetic grant allowed us to contract with a paintings conservator to both inspect the murals in the Capitol and to clean and repair two Shorty Shope murals in the Livestock Building. This will be an on-going project to preserve and conserve the artwork both in the Capitol building and in the Capitol complex.

ORIGINAL GOVERNOR'S MANSION

Since 1981, the Museum Program has administered the Original Governor's Mansion (OGM) as an historic house museum offering guided tours to visitors from April through December. As a result of budget cuts, the Mansion suspended regularly scheduled tours for eight months during this period. Through a switch in funding we were able to re-hire tour guides, but the break in this service greatly affected our visitation even after regular tours were resumed. Visitation to the Mansion this biennium numbered 8,978; 6,826 on regularly scheduled tours and 2,152 by specially arranged tours.

The OGM Board, a group of twelve leaders from the Helena community, support the Museum in restoration and renovation of the Mansion. They hold two major fund-raising events each year--an Ice Cream Booth at Memorial Park during July's Helena City Band Concerts and the Christmas Home Tour in early December. In the last biennium the second floor Master Bathroom renovation was completed, new carpeting for the stairway to the third floor was acquired, new curtains for the southeast bedroom were purchased, as was wicker furniture for

the porch. The Original Governor's Mansion Restoration Board donated a number of items to the collection: a cut glass water decanter, five items from the Isabel Haynes estate, a brass Art Nouveau candlestick, and they assisted in paying for the restoration of a table lamp once owned by a prominent Butte family.

EDUCATION

School programs are an important part of the educational outreach of the Museum Program. Approximately 5,500 students received guided tours of the museum in the last two years. In addition, our footlocker exhibits traveled to over 300 schools throughout the state and, as always, were fully booked during schools sessions. Two new footlockers on pre-history were produced and will be available soon. Workshops for teachers were presented to the Montana Education Association Conference, at the Montana History Conference, and in schools in Kalispell, Bigfork, and Somers. During the biennium staff created a popular new series of Saturday afternoon programs for the family audience called "Family Day." Topics included museum scavenger hunts, John L. Clarke (carving and sign language), architecture, stamp collecting, the fur trade, and cowboys. An annual after-school program held near the Columbus holiday celebrates native cultures and is planned in conjunction with local Native American organizations.

A variety of public programs were offered throughout this period. The annual March Lecture Series covered the themes "Women Historians/Historic Women" and "As We See Ourselves, as Others See Us." Monthly programs of the Friends of the Society were open to the public; the Chinese in Montana, the culture of the Metis, and the medical practices on the Lewis and Clark Expedition were some of the topics explored. Annual programs were held at the Society for Archaeology Week and Museum Day. Over 3,190 people participated in educational programs we offered.

The 19th and 20th annual Montana History Conferences were held in Miles City (199 attendess) and Missoula (196 attendess) and focused on the history of the eastern part of the state and the history of education. The Montana History Day Competition is organized each year by the Education Office. In 1993, 13 Montana students entered the National History Day competition and won a national 3rd place in Junior Group Media. In 1994, 70 students from 8 schools entered Montana History Day and 26 students qualified for the national competition.

At the end of the summer in 1992 the Capitol Tour program was discontinued and the half-time assistant for the Education program was lost. During the 1993 Legislature, staff trained legislative spouses to give tours of the Capitol. In July of 1993, the Capitol Tour Program and the Education Assistant were restored. Despite the loss of these regular services for over eight months of the past two years, 17,611 people enjoyed guided tours of the Capitol.

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

We received two Federal grants from the Institute of Museum Services this biennium. A 1993 IMS General Operating Support grant of $47,676 was awarded to the Museum which allowed us to hire a part-time Museum Technician, provided a visitor study needs report and will provide us with a year-long museum visitor survey. A $25,000 Conservation Project grant to hire a Conservator to individually assess the condition of our 3,500-piece Native American collection and reorganize them in more appropriate storage units was received in 1992 and completed in 1994.

Two grants from the 1993 Montana Legislature, funded by the Montana Cultural Trust, were received. A project to evaluate the condition of murals and artwork in the State Capitol and the Capitol complex was funded by a $12,000 C & A grant. Another grant of $5,000 was awarded to the Museum to re-frame our C.M. Russell art on paper and assessing conservation needs for our Russell models. This grant was eventually cut to $464 following revenue shortfalls in this granting program; the Museum expended over $4,955 on the Russell framing project from other funds so that some of this work would be accomplished.

Glacier Park, Inc., a subsidiary of the Dial Corporation of Arizona, donated costs of printing for our John Clarke exhibit invitations, posters and informational handouts.

The Society applied for and was successful in receiving a grant from the International Committee on Museums for a staff exchange. A 1993-95 International Partnership Among Museums grant funded expenses for two Society staff to work in Alberta for a month each, learning how the Province of Alberta approaches cultural heritage programming.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The Museum Program will be facing new challenges over the course of the next few years. Increasing demand for services--requests for technical assistance, traveling exhibits, educational programs, school curriculum material, loans for outside exhibits and reference queries--occur each year. With the loss of a significant part of our supplies and materials budget since the last biennium, the Museum has had to curtail some services and rely on increasingly competitive Federal grants to make up the difference. We hope, however, to provide viable alternatives in the absence of our normal programming.

We will continue to place care of Museum collections as a program priority. Federal funds will be sought to accomplish discreet projects to improve storage conditions, especially for our major art collection. State funds are being sought for a project to provide conservation services to museums and individuals throughout Montana. Our present artifact storage space is extremely limited. We are in

dire need of a large climate controlled off-site storage building to house especially large collections; the facility we now have available is inadequate for this purpose. There are many repairs at the Original Governor's Mansion which have been needed for some time, but are now critical to have accomplished including, capping of the chimneys, repair and painting of window frames, bird nesting eradication, repair of wood rot to structural parts of the front porch, and replacement of a deteriorating brick wall in the Carriage House.

Documentation of collections is another area where improvement is needed. Cataloguing activity must continue at a brisk pace to keep up with our need for records management, a full inventory of collections is past due, and computerization of information concerning Museum collections is critical. Though these issues of information management must be addressed, our limited personnel and financial resources will make it difficult to make much headway in this arena.

Educational activities have been successful but our efforts in this area cannot at present meet the needs of our audience. We must also try to reach audience segments who have not traditionally been served adequately; groups such as foreign language speakers, handicapped groups and ethnic minorities. Efforts to reach the statewide audience outside Helena with programs and historical resources continues and will be stepped up when possible. Recently programs such as the Montana History Conference and our traveling exhibits have meet with great success throughout Montana. The Museum will seek to acquire funds for development of a new series of history footlockers for schools, video presentations and additional publications to coincide with our exhibits--such as catalogs and school curriculum materials.

We expect that the Museum will produce at least two major temporary exhibits and one traveling exhibit during the next biennium. Additional changes to our three permanent exhibits are also scheduled, including a physical change in the Reflections area of Montana Homeland. Additionally, many small exhibits will be mounted that feature distinct parts of the Society's collections--such as new acquisitions or thematic groupings of artifacts--in the lobby and in other parts of the building. Additionally, talks with the Province of Alberta concerning a cooperative exhibit are now taking place--if funding is found, another major temporary exhibit will be planned for the next biennium.

The visitor survey project will continue. Results from this survey will be used to help plan future programming and services. We hope to follow up the survey with a non-visitor questionnaire and/or a membership survey to broaden the input we receive from the public.

As always the Museum Program will strive for educational excellence in presentation of all of our exhibits, programs, research, and publications.

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

The Montana Historical Society Publications Program consists of three departments: its nationally recognized, award-winning quarterly historical journal, Montana The Magazine of Western History; its book publishing division, the Montana Historical Society Press, the state's only academic book publisher; and the Montana Historical Society Museum Store. The program also is responsible for publication of the Society's quarterly newsletter, the Montana Post, and facilitating production of more ephemeral publications such as brochures.

MAGAZINE

Publication of the Society's quarterly history magazine is one way in which the Society fulfills its statutory mission of preserving Montana history and providing educational outreach. Established in 1951, Montana The Magazine of Western History enjoyed virtually instant success. Initially published in the traditional 6 x 9 format of other state historical journals, Montana was enlarged within two years to its present over-sized format to accommodate more historical articles, illustrations, and full-color cover art. Since then, the formula for the journal's success has been maintained: well-researched, well-written articles that make significant contributions to Montana and western history; generous illustration with historical photographs, maps, charts, and other illustration; tasteful, engaging western art reproduced in high quality and full color on the magazine's cover.

This formula has worked well for the magazine. Montana is regarded as the finest historical journal of its kind in the nation and is a pace-setter for format, design, content, illustration, and general presentation of historical information. The magazine's circulation of more than 10,000 includes by contract: the 1,500 members of the Western History Association, which in turn represents more than 90 percent of all western history professionals (academic historians, National Park Service and other public historians, state and local historians, and western writers); 7,500 lay readers; and 1,000 occasional readers represented by those who purchase the magazine off the news stand. Half of Montana's subscribers live in Montana, yet Montana circulates in all fifty states and in fifteen foreign countries, as well as to 150 public libraries, county historical societies, and local history museums inside Montana and to 150 public and university libraries outside the state. Thus, Montana is a service to thousands of Montana residents and serves as a vehicle by which Montana and its rich cultural heritage are promoted throughout the nation and all over the world.

During the past two years, the Publications Program has undertaken a number of efforts to upgrade magazine operations, make them more

efficient, and improve overall quality and cost-effectiveness. Those efforts have included:

Increased Circulation

This is being accomplished through direct mail solicitation of new subscribers and distribution for newsstand sales through distribution agencies.

Upwards of 250,000 pieces of direct mail promotional material have invited recipients to subscribe during the past two years. Lists of names have been obtained from other western state historical societies, western trail organizations, other western history buff groups, and the alumni associations of the state's two major universities. Returns have averaged 3 percent (a 1/2 to 1 percent response is considered good and pays for the mailing itself). Renewals in the second year from new subscribers have averaged more than 50 percent.

In addition, through special contracts with distribution agencies based in Helena, the Southwest, and the upper Midwest, Montana is available on newsstands, in book stores such as Hastings and Waldens, museums, local historical societies and historical sites, airports, and grocery stores nationwide.

Upgraded Design

After simplifying the magazine's design four years ago, we have continued to effect a cleaner, more attractive appearance and improved design for a magazine that is easier to read and use. We have doubled use of historical photographs, illustrations, maps, and other such material, and we have added new sections such as movie reviews, commentaries, and special essays.

Improved Content

During the past two years we have consciously recruited some of the best historians and writers working in western history. Contributors have included: Robert M. Utley, Ivan Doig, Bill Kittredge, James P. Ronda, James Welch, and Elmer Kelton. Topics addressed have included women's history, exploration and settlement, Native American history and literature, popular culture, the fur trade, and western film.

Broadened Advertising

By law, the magazine can devote no more than 10 percent of its space to advertising. By policy, the magazine carries only high-quality advertising directly related to western history. (Almost all magazine advertising relates to new or rare, out-of-print books on western history and literature.) To maximize a limited opportunity, we have made contractual arrangements with seven university presses and with an assortment of antiquarian dealers. The effect has been

to regularize billing, income, and planning for the magazine's advertising space needs.

Upgraded Equipment and Personnel

A year ago, the Publications Program purchased $17,000 worth of equipment and hired a half-time Assistant Editor with a background in creative design and computer expertise to do, for the first time in-house, all magazine and book typesetting, computer imaging layout, and production of camera-ready material for the Montana Post and other, more occasional publications such as brochures, history conference programs, flyers, promotional material, and magazine inserts.

The decision to pull these functions in-house proved highly efficient and cost-effective. Within the year, and because of cost-savings, we have been able to purchase additional equipment and increase the Assistant Editor to full-time status. The effect has been to broaden the Publication Program's assistance to other Society activities and to take on increased responsibilities with MHS Press.

Cooperative Projects

The MHS Publications Program helped sponsor two major symposia during the past year. The first, held in Missoula last September in tribute to western novelist, historian and essayist Wallace Stegner, featured lectures by a number of distinguished western historians and writers. These presentations subsequently appeared in Montana The Magazine of Western History in the Autumn 1993 issue.

The second, titled the Little Bighorn Legacy Symposium and presented in cooperation with the National Park Service, was held in Billings this past August and included more than 15 lectures by leading historians, anthropologists, western writers, and Native Americans. More than 320 people registered and attended the symposium, and the Society tape-recorded each presentation and panel session for its Oral History Program. The MHS Publications Program will publish a "proceedings"—including all presentations delivered during the symposium—late in 1995.

Plans for Montana The Magazine of Western History for the next two years include:

Continued direct mail promotion to maintain magazine circulation and with it financial stability.

Enhanced magazine visibility through other forms of advertising and program participation in historical conferences, symposia, and related programs.

Increased cooperative efforts with other state institutions involved with Montana and western history. These include cooperative symposia with the state's institutions of higher

education, the results of which are often published in the magazine and contribute to anthologies published by the MHS Press, and encouraging oral history and other historical projects that produce timely and significant interviews and essays suitable for publication.

Maintaining the high quality of the magazine's appearance and content that Montana readers have come to expect. Such quality helps project a favorable, inviting, and respected image for the state and its history.

MHS PRESS

The MHS Press's reputation as a respected publisher of high-quality books and pamphlets of scholarly and general interest continues to grow.

Because of the success of the Publications Program's desktop publishing operations, noted above, and because of an increasing reputation for high quality publications, the Publications Program has expanded MHS Press operations.

Thirteen new books are currently under contract or are being negotiated for contract. Three of these will be guidebooks similar to the MHS Press's Guide to the Milwaukee Road, published in 1992. Two are anthologies similar to The Great Sioux War, published in 1991, and four others are historical monographs, biographies, or major compendiums.

During the past two years, the Press has initiated and concluded a number of worthwhile projects, several in cooperation with other state agencies such as the Montana Highway Department. Such projects have included Guide to the Milwaukee Road in Montana, by Steve McCarter; Keeping the Peace: Police Reform in Montana, 1889 to 1918, by Robert A. Harvie; Ed Purple's Narrative of Early-Day Bannack, edited by Kenneth N. Owens; and the 40-year Index to Montana The Magazine of Western History, 1951-1990.

In addition, MHS Press has maintained an ambitious reprint program, including reprints of Montana Native Plants, A Traveler's Companion to Montana History, No Step Backward, Montana's Historical Highway Markers, Montana Heritage: An Anthology of Historical Essays, and Calamity Jane.

New books under contract with the press to be published in 1995 or 1996 include: Journeys to the Land of Gold: A Compendium of Bozeman Trail Diaries, 1863-1866 (2 volumes), by Susan Doyle; The Charlie Russell Reader: Essays on Montana's Cowboy Artist, edited by Brian W. Dippie; Historical Guide to Montana Highways, by Richard Roeder; Historical Guide to Montana's Gold and Ghost Camps, by Dan Vichorek; Guide to Historical Sites of the Great Sioux War, by Paul L. Hedren; and Legacy: The Contemporary Significance of the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

MUSEUM STORE

The Publications Program is responsible for managing the Society's museum gift shop. The Museum Store continues to operate in a fashion responsive to public demand primarily through direct mail to a broad base of people interested in western history and in a way that accommodates itself with Helena are businesses. Store proceeds support the MHS Press. In addition to offering merchandise appropriate and suitable to a state historical society, especially books, magazines, and prints related to Montana history and literature, the store serves as a clearing house for a number of questions and requests for information, which are answered free of charge or directed to appropriate programs within the Society or to other state offices or private institutions.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

We exist to encourage Montanans (individuals, organizations, units of government, government agencies) to preserve (maintain, protect, use, remodel, interpret and plan for) significant historic and prehistoric buildings and sites in their ownership or care. We aren't preservers or policemen. Instead, we offer advice, technical assistance, support, leads to other people, and official comments--as required by law. More specifically, we provide information, help conduct research, share examples, walk people through applications, regrant or manage federal money for local projects, praise and honor good projects, provide comments to public agencies on whether their efforts to preserve cultural resources appear to meet legal requirements, hold workshops, duplicate handouts, and give programs.

This philosophy underlies our work: that preserving and, where feasible, using many historic and prehistoric sites and buildings saves natural resources, provides labor intensive construction, offers interesting and useable space for living and working, and makes our distinct history (historic, prehistoric, and Native American) visible and understandable to us and to visitors. This isn't "landmark" preservation--except in some few, important cases. It is more often founded on recycling, public interpretation, economic development, and needed recognition of several cultures' heritage.

As required by the terms of our federal grant and the Montana Antiquities Act, our staff is comprised of historians, architectural historians, archaeologists, an architect, and local government/grant administrators. We operate the office on a combination of federal and state funds and regrant a portion of the federal funds that we receive as a condition of federal grant receipt.

Our specific tasks include:

Helping Montanans research and list worthy properties in the National Register of Historic Places;

Regranting federal funds to help communities conduct or conducting ourselves systematic research on groups of properties that might qualify for the Register;

Walking Montana developers, architects, and building owners through the paperwork needed to secure federal tax credits available for the rehabilitation of historic, income-producing buildings;

Certifying Montana local governments that wish to orchestrate local preservation efforts (with ordinances, boards, and staff) so that they can receive a portion of our federal grant dollars;

Providing comments to federal and state agencies, as required by federal and state preservation legislation, so that projects undertaken by those agencies can occur with limited impact to significant cultural resources;

Providing technical assistance on a wide range of preservation topics: building care; historic property research; archaeological site protection; preservation laws and regulations;

Maintaining data on all cultural sites and buildings in Montana and on all previous inventories conducted to find and evaluate historic and prehistoric sites;

Sponsoring or helping with a wide array of educational and interpretive efforts to improve everyone's sense of why historic buildings and sites have economic and emotional value; and

Strengthening all other organizations, groups, and individuals (Native American culture committees, statewide organizations, local organizations, etc.) who accomplish preservation and spread the message.

PRESERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Preservation Education

In concert with teachers and preservationists from outside our office, we completed our Montana Committee for the Humanities pilot heritage education grant by (a) producing curriculum materials for distribution to all history teachers, (b) developing "teaching trunks" on prehistoric archaeological sites, (c) preparing to share computer information networks with history teachers and social

studies coordinators statewide, and (d) qualifying for a National Park Service scholarship so that a member of our staff and a partner-history teacher could attend an NPS workshop on heritage education.

Public Education

With the Society's Museum staff in the lead, we helped them prepare the Society's first-ever exhibit on Montana's architectural heritage. The exhibit, entitled BUILDINGS IN THE BALANCE, showcased the kinds of buildings that Montanans have constructed through the years, the historical and architectural values they represent, and the historical reasons that such buildings are destroyed. The exhibit text was carried by quotations from contemporary Montanans. When the exhibit closed in 1994, we used Survey and Planning funds to reconstitute it as a traveling exhibit--available to any organization around the state.

Professional Education

In cooperation with a Missoula cultural resource consulting firm and the National Park Service, we hosted a three-day seminar on identifying and evaluating cultural landscapes for the National Register of Historic Places. Entitled **Grounded in Reality**, the workshop attracted 5 nationally-recognized speakers and 70 preservation practitioners. It tackled the growing question of how to treat the settings in which many important human activities have occurred. Based on this workshop's popularity, we've applied for and received grant funding to sponsor the second in the series, titled **Facing Reality,** to address cultural landscape recordation and management. This second workshop will again be sponsored by our office, Historical Research Associates, Inc., the U. S. Forest Service, and the National Park Service.

Professional and Public Education

We are also cosponsors, with the Forest Service, the National Park Service, the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, and the Bureau of Land Management, of a series of hands-on historic building preservation courses. Aimed specifically at maintenance and caretaking staffs, 5 training courses have already occurred and 5 more are planned for 1995. They are learning-by-doing sessions held at historic places which need assistance.

Preservation PLACES Survey

For three successive years, the Offices's PLACES (People, Lands, and Cultural Environments) program has applied successfully to the Turner Foundation for funding to conduct multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural inventory of prehistoric resources on the Flying D Ranch in Gallatin and Madison counties. We have prepared and submitted a fourth grant application for the final stage of this survey program. The PLACES program examines human activity and

resources as inextricably influenced by and influencing of "natural" resources.

Certified Local Governments

Anaconda/Deer Lodge officially joined our 11 other "certified" local governments with preservation boards and ordinances (Missoula, Helena/Lewis and Clark County, Great Falls/Cascade County, Lewistown, Butte/Silver-Bow County, Bozeman, Carbon County, Virginia City, and Miles City.) Billings/Yellowstone County is close and Broadus/Powder River County is in training. Certified status entitles communities to apply for a set-aside portion of our federal preservation grant dollars and enables the community to take greater charge of preservation issues/projects in their communities.

Tax Credits

Montana's booming economy has only increased an already steady use of federal preservation tax credits to rehabilitate income-producing properties on the National Register of Historic Places. Projects ranging from the Pollard Hotel in Red Lodge, to the Fort Peck Hotel in Fort Peck, to 2 different projects in the Great Falls Railroad Historic district, along with many others, have invested 7 million dollars in Montana's economy over the biennium.

Anaconda and Other Community Surveys

After years of hoping that Anaconda would apply to be a community architectural and historical inventory project, it did so. Their interest was fueled by Anaconda/Butte historic park proposals and Southwestern Montana Heritage and Recreation development recommendations--and by mitigation funds for Superfund work. Surveys in specific neighborhoods in Billings, Missoula, Bozeman, and Kalispell were finished this biennium or are now being completed.

Federal and State Agency Reviews

Federal and state law requires our review and comment on all projects that could affect properties on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. This regular workload is intense. The political pressure for commenting quickly and in "favorable" ways increases. Some federal programs (such as HOME and ISTEA/CTEP) have grown quickly and have generated heavy new workloads. Other federal programs have maintained their level of activity but lost historians and archaeologists to help. We continue to alter our procedures and to develop legal mechanisms to offer resources good protection while eliminating as many commenting steps as feasible.

National Register Program

The number of organizations or individuals wishing to list properties in the National Register of Historic Places continues to

increase. As Montana recognizes heritage preservation and tourism as critical sources of emotional and economic benefit, more folks want their clearly-valuable properties recognized. At the moment, we've coped only with the use of very skilled interns from the University of Montana.

Partners

As the above examples illustrate, increasingly we team up with others to accomplish projects, educate on issues, tackle new needs. Our partners range from tribal cultural committees to federal and state agencies to private consulting firms and businesses.

FUTURE WORK

In the next biennium, we anticipate:

Continuing to conduct the fundamental education, technical assistance, and commenting required of us.

Developing more partners and more ongoing partnerships to accomplish needed preservation work. It is imperative that our partnerships include Native Americans as fully as possible.

Specifically, adding our weight to a current proposal to create a multi-agency "hands-on" building rehabilitation craftsman center that can serve communities and agencies throughout the West.

Tempering our work, time, and goals to fit ever shifting federal preservation requirements, regulations, and dollars. Put bluntly, if the federal government continues to pass more authority on to us, we must make specific choices about how much we accept--based on Montana's needs and preferences.

Hosting State Historic Preservation Officers from around the nation for their quarterly meeting--during the 1995 summer.

Zeroing in--in strategic planning documents--on the steps that our legislature and communities and agencies could take that would most improve care of our historic building and site assets.

Looking to strengthen our educational efforts--with a number of audiences. Persuasion and excitement remain the most effective tools for "preservation conversion" in Montana.

Looking to strengthen and support our PLACES survey project through a growing range of sources.